

SNEINTON AND ST ANN'S PARKS AND HILLS WALK



Circular walk through Sneinton and St Ann's exploring hills, parks, disused railway line, a windmill and city farm, with stunning views across the city

Walk No 10

DESCRIPTION

A circular walk, with some steep ascents and descents, exploring hills, parks, a disused railway, a windmill and city farm, with stunning views across our City.

THE FACTS

Area	Nottingham City, Sneinton and St Ann's
Distance	C 6km/ 4 miles
Duration	2.5 – 3 hours
Maps	As leaflet, street map or OS Explorer 1:25000 Map 260
Travel Information	Public transport bus services to City Centre & on Beacon Hill Rise, Carlton Road and Sneinton Dale (see www.nctx.co.uk and www.traveleastmidlands.co.uk)
Terrain	Mainly walkways, pavements, and surfaced paths. Some steps and some steep ascents and descents. Some parts unsuitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and prams.
Start/ Finish	Victoria Leisure Centre, NG1 1DB
Refreshments/ Facilities	Shops near start in the city, in Sneinton Market and Sneinton Dale; also at Green's Windmill and Stonebridge City Farm when open.

Shorter walk options:

From Victoria Leisure Centre turn right down Bath Street, cross Carlton Road, walk up Sneinton Road, Dale Street and Belvoir Hill to Green's Windmill. Follow route instruction from G to return to start. You can visit Victoria Park and St Mary's Rest garden (A and B) on your way back.

Cover image: Victoria Park looking to the Victorian terraces of Promenade

THE ROUTE

- A. From the open area outside the **Victoria Leisure Centre** use the pedestrian crossings on Bath Steet and Robin Hood Street to enter **Victoria Park** via the entrance gates. Enjoy the park including the views to the colourful houses of **Promenade**. From where you entered the park follow the path round to the left past the playground and exit at the gate to the left of the pavilion to enter **St Mary's Rest Garden**. Notice the small brick tower on the right as you enter.
- B. Walk round this garden in either direction. Look out for the lion which guarded the tomb of boxer William Thompson, known as **Bendigo**. Opposite the entrance on Bath Street, you can see the Salvation Army **William Booth Memorial Halls Building**. Exit the garden from where you entered and turn left to walk past the Pavilion. Continue straight ahead onto Robin Hood Terrace and right along Campbell Grove (behind Promenade) and onto Campbell Street to bring you to the bottom of Beacon Hill Rise.
- C. Turn left to walk steeply up **Beacon Hill Rise**. As you ascend fine views of the city behind offer a good reason to stop and catch your breath. Follow Beacon Hill Rise as it curves round to the right, then at a mini roundabout keep left and walk up **Gordon Road** with **Bluebell Hill Primary School** on your right. Keep ahead as the road bends to the left then right arriving at **Our Lady and St Edward's Catholic church** and **The Old Friary Presbytery** on your left.
- D. Opposite the church enter **Marmion Park** (on your right). Follow the path straight ahead through the park, exiting through 3 barrier gates onto Brockenhurst Gardens. At sign "Brockenhurst Gardens 16-32", turn right, then follow path round to the left and downhill to reach Carlton Road. Cross at pedestrian crossing then turn left and walk past shops to reach the public footpath, signed to Sneinton Dale.
- E. Turn right to follow the footpath. You are walking along the line of what was **the Nottingham Suburban Railway**. Notice the tunnel/ siding on your left, then pass a football pitch on your left. On reaching another footpath sign as the path nears houses, keep straight ahead with the houses on your left and open wasteland on your right – this has fine views across our city, to Green's Windmill and to countryside beyond. Keep following the footpath, straight ahead and then to the right as it descends with views from here across

Sneinton Dale and to Colwick Wood. Steps take you down onto Edale Road. Turn left and arrive on **Sneinton Dale** almost opposite the **Dales Centre**.

- F. Turn right and walk along the lively Sneinton Dale high street, for around 750 metres, past shops and houses. Where the road starts to climb up and bend round to the right you pass Holroyd Avenue and some big houses on your right. Just before a zebra crossing, enter **Greens Mill Park** on your right. Climb steeply up through the park to reach **Green's Windmill** where welcome benches allow you to enjoy the fine views. The windmill and community garden are worth visiting when open.
- G. Leave Green's Mill Park by the entrance on the left as you face the windmill and descend by steps through the car park onto Windmill Lane. **St Stephen's Church** is down to the left. A short diversion is possible here to **William Booth's birthplace** on Notinone Street. Turn right out of the Windmill car park to walk up Windmill Lane, passing the former **Queen Adelaide pub** (now residential) on your left. Past this enter **King Edward Park**, formerly the site of the UK's first country asylum, via the entrance gate next to the Park sign. There are more good views between trees to the city. Descend by any path through the trees towards the sports area. After enjoying the park, leave by the entrance near the children's play area onto Carlton Road.
- H. Cross Carlton Road using the pedestrian crossing to your right, then turn left and immediately right to walk along Clarence Street (opposite where you exited the park). Follow this road through the industrial estate to arrive on Stonebridge Road opposite **Stonebridge City Farm** which can be visited when open.
- I. Turn left on Stonebridge Road (as you face the farm) and at the end turn left again onto Robin Hood Street. Walk down here, passing Victoria Park again on your right, to return to the start. You can end your walk by visiting nearby **Sneinton Market**.

POINTS OF INTEREST

***Victoria Leisure Centre/ Victoria Baths**, opened in 1850 following the 1846 "Act to encourage Public Baths and Wash-houses", are the oldest and first swimming pools in Nottingham. They were part of public amenities provided for by the General Inclosure Act of 1845. Facilities included baths, an oval pool, an exhibition pool and*

a ladies pool. The exhibition pool could be boarded over for other activities including boxing, dog shows and beer festivals. The baths were used as a morgue during the 1918 flu epidemic. In 2012 regeneration saw the development of a new pool and gym.

Victoria Park, originally Meadow Platt where cricket was played, became Bath Street Cricket Ground following the 1845 Inclosure Act. In 1894 it was formally opened as Victoria Park by Alderman Frederick Pullman.

St Mary's Rest Garden. Formerly known as St Ann's Cemetery. The land was given by Samuel Fox, a Quaker, in response to a cholera outbreak and was consecrated as a burial garden in 1835. The brick tower on the boundary wall is thought to be a former access shaft to the Beck Culvert tunnel. The rest garden was laid out as a park with paths, wild garden areas and formal grass areas and monuments in the 1940's, including the moving of the tombstones.

Promenade The colourful houses of Promenade and the neighbouring terraces of Robin Hood Terrace and Campbell Grove were built in the 1850's to meet growing demand for housing during the lace boom. They are rare surviving examples of good quality Victorian working-class housing.

Our lady and St Edward Catholic Church & the Old Friary. In 1885 the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace established themselves serving the community in Blue Bell Hill, including a school. A parish was created in 1930 and the site on Gordon Road obtained in 1937. The foundation stone for the church was laid on 13 February 1954 (feast of St Edward) and the church completed in 1966. The Old Friary, next to the church, was previously a Franciscan community and is now a House of Discernment for those considering a vocation to priesthood.

Nottingham Suburban Railway line was opened in December 1889 connecting Nottingham, Thorneywood, Mapperley and Sherwood to Daybrook. Operated by the Great Northern Railway it was 3.65 miles long and served local brick works as well as taking passenger traffic. The line finally closed in 1951.

Sneinton has existed since at least 1086 and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It remained largely unchanged until the industrial era. The population expanded

alongside the lace and textile industries of Nottingham on land sold for housing in early 19th century by the First Earl of Manvers and, later, on more land sold by the third Earl of Manvers.

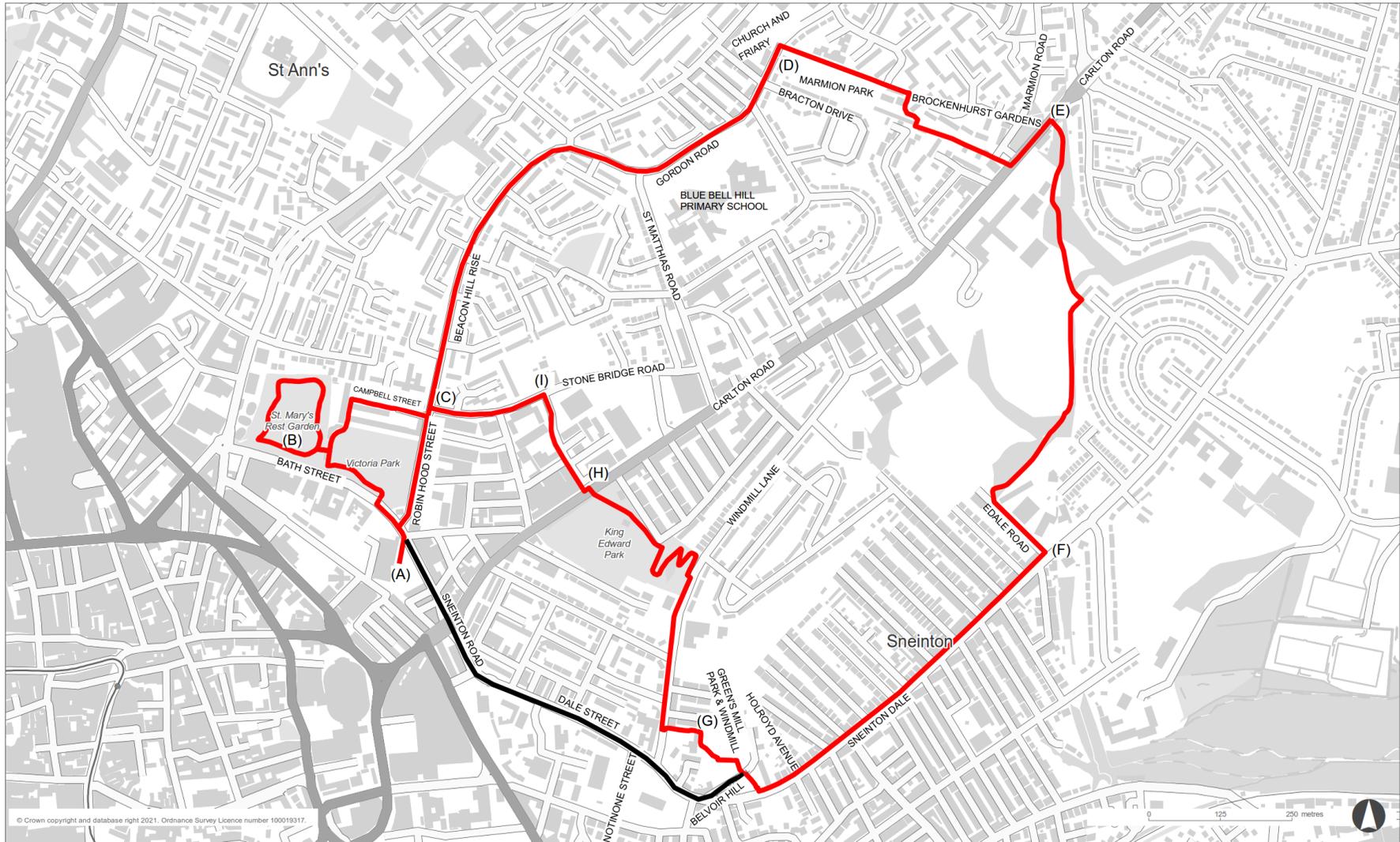
Green's Windmill was built in 1807 on the site of a previous smaller post mill. George Green, son of the founder, was a renowned mathematician and inherited and operated the site until 1841. The windmill was renovated in the 1980's. It is producing flour and is open to the public as a science centre and park. There is a community garden to the rear.

William Booth 1829-1912 was born in Sneinton. His birthplace in **Notinone Place**, near to our route, is now a museum. He was originally a Methodist, then became an independent preacher. In 1865 he founded the Christian Revival Society with his wife. This became the Salvation Army in 1875 working with the poorest and needy in society. Today the Salvation Army operates in 130 countries. The **Salvation Army Memorial Halls on Bath Street** are of neoclassical design and were built in 1914-15 to designs of Oswald Archer.

King Edward Park is on the site of the former Nottingham Lunatic Asylum. This was the first Country Asylum to open in England and operated from 1812 until 1902. It was later converted to a boarding school which has since been demolished.

Stonebridge City Farm was created in 1980, developed on a site originally intended for a school. All are welcome to visit its gardens and animals when open. Free entry but donations are welcome.

Sneinton Market was also part of space set aside for public amenities under the 1845 Inclosure Act. Previous back-to-back housing, known as "The Bottoms", and a clay pipe factory were demolished. The "new market" became known as Sneinton Market from 1881. Initially selling pots and second-hand clothing and furniture it became an overflow for the main wholesale market in Old Market Square. It also hosted public meetings, fairs and theatre. The wholesale market was modernised in the 1930's with the building of open fronted units with shutters and glazed roofs. Redevelopment since 2014 is now replacing these as the new Creative Quarter develops here.



- The Walk
- Short Walk Option

1:6,000

